

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 OES-07 HA-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03

SS-15 NSCE-00 ARA-14 IO-14 /100 W

-----031376 171648Z /44

O P 171437Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMCONSUL PALERMO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9940

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 0939

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: ALLEGED US MISTREATMENT OF ITALIAN FISHING FLEET

REF.: PALERMO 40

1. EMBASSY PROVIDING FOLLOWING INFO PENDING FULLER REPLY TO
REFTEL FROM DEPARTMENT.

2. NET SIZE. USG ANNOUNCED 60 MM. MINIMUM MESH SIZE IN 1977
FOREIGN FISHING REGULATIONS (PUBLISHED FEB. 11, 1977), BUT
WAIVED THE INCREASE FOR 1977 IN ORDER TO PERMIT FOREIGN VESSELS
TO PREPARE NEW GEAR. US SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT THE LARGER MESH
SIZE, WILL PREVENT JUVENILE MORTALITY OF COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT
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FIN FISH. USG TOOK INTO ACCOUNT GOI COMMENTS WHEN USG ISSUED
FINAL 1978 FOREIGN FISHING REGULATIONS ON NOV. 28, 1977 WHICH
PERMIT USE OF NOT LESS THAN 45 MM. MESH FOR PELAGIC TRAWLING.
THIS SMALLER MESH SIZE FOR PELAGIC FISHING IS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE
TRAWLING FOR SQUID ABOVE THE SEA FLOOR. FOR BOTTOM TRAWLING,
A JOINT STUDY CONDUCTED BY CANADA AND CUBA UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC

FISHERIES INDICATE THAT AN INCREASE IN MESH SIZE FROM 40 MM. TO 60 MM. RESULTS IN A LOSS OF ONLY TWO PERCENT OF ADULT ILLEX SQUID. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONDUCT FURTHER GEAR TRIALS IN 1978 AND IS WILLING TO CONSIDER RESEARCH WITH ITALIAN VESSELS.

3. FISHING ZONE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS ITALIAN VESSELS NOW PERMITTED TO FISH ONLY IN ZONE 8 RATHER THAN IN ZONE 1 WHICH THEY PREFERRED FOR SEVERAL REASONS INCLUDING BETTER WEATHER. WEATHER. EMBASSY INVITED MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE TO INFORM EMBASSY IN WRITING ABOUT PROBLEMS WITH FISHING ZONE ASSIGNED TO ITALIAN VESSELS.

4. FISHING LIMITS. ALTHOUGH GIORNALE DI SICILIA ARTICLE DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF LIMITS, IT IS WORTH BEARING IN MIND THAT HERRING FISHING HAS BEEN PROHIBITED IN US CONSERVATION ZONE (AS IT HAS BEEN IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ZONE--IN 1977 AT LEAST) AND THE MACKEREL QUOTA HAS BEEN REDUCED DRASTICALLY BECAUSE US SCIENTISTS BELIEVE STOCKS ARE SEVERELY DEPLETED. ITALIAN FISHING IN THE US ZONE IS MOSTLY FOR SQUID, FOR WHICH 1978 QUOTA WAS SET AT THE SAME LEVEL AS FINAL 1977 QUOTA.
GARDNER

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